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Ernest Hemingway Response Paper

In the beginning of the author, Ernest Hemingway, book “*In Our Time*,” in my opinion, deal with society issues of being masculine and feminine during this time frame of World War I. The way Hemingway presented the text was very confusing. In the first short story, “On the Quai to Smyrna” discussed several outcomes of being in war and some of the effects war can have on a person. Throughout this section Hemingway, talks how soldiers scream in the middle of the night around the same time, women having babies on the pier, and some even holding on to dead babies for a number of several days.

Throughout the selected readings Hemingway introduced the notions of male dominance and masculinity describing some characteristics of being masculine to be prideful, powerful, and territorial and so on. In the readings *Indian Camp* and *The Doctor and the Doctor’s Wife*, male dominance was showed throughout the readings. In Indian Camp Nick’s father and Uncle George show pride in the experience of the Indian women childbirth. After giving the young Indian woman a C-section with “jack knife and sewing it up with nine- foot, tapered gut leader” (Hemingway 18). Instead of there being more of a happy and nurturing (i.e. feminine) setting more of a masculine feel was brought into the birth. Why is that? The birth of a child is supposed to be a celebration of life, not bragging rights on how one delivers the baby or take care of the patient. Then after giving birth a moment of weakness is introduced to the story by the baby’s father, who commits suicide in an attempt to escape the duties of parenthood and fear of possibly doing wrong by the child. The baby’s father suicide is symbolized as a moment of weakness. Nick’s father then complete this story by trying to silent the situation.

In *The Doctors and the Doctor’s Wife* pride really plays a major role. Within this selection both Nick’s father and Dick Bulton let their pride and ability to do things get in the way. Instead of them making a solution to dissolve the issue of wood, they would rather miss out on an opportunity. Knowing that most men do not like being accused of being a thief, Henry felt obligated to terminate Dick from the job after Dick checked the carvings on the wood to determine the true owner. After returning home, Henry lies to his wife about the altercation in hopes to avoid the conversation, so to make himself feel more of a man Nick and him go hunting. Hunting represent a since of manhood (i.e. strength, ability, and pride)

In conclusion, is having control over particular situations, and being very masculine really that important to be considered a man? What is male dominance? Understanding that a lot of men do not want to be considered weak, but want to have a certain power and pride. One can be powerful and proud of what he does regardless of ones gender.